

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Application for Approval of Tungsten-Polymer Shot as Nontoxic for Waterfowl Hunting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces that Federal Cartridge Company (Federal) of Anoka, Minnesota, has applied for approval of tungsten-polymer shot as nontoxic for waterfowl hunting in the United States.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul R. Schmidt, Chief, or Carol Anderson, Wildlife Biologist, Office of Migratory Bird Management (MBMO), (703) 358-1714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Since the mid-1970s, the Service has sought to identify shot that, when spent, does not pose a significant toxic hazard to migratory birds and other wildlife. Currently, only bismuth-tin and steel shot are approved by the Service as nontoxic. Tungsten-iron shot has received temporary conditional approval for the 1997-98 hunting season. The Service believes approval for other suitable candidate shot materials as nontoxic is feasible.

Federal submits their application for approval of tungsten-polymer shot as nontoxic pursuant to 50 CFR 20.134, Migratory Bird Hunting: Nontoxic Shot. The Service believes the candidate material shows promise and will consider the application.

Federal's candidate shot is made by physically mixing tungsten and polymer (Nylon 6), then melting the nylon. Cooling causes the nylon to cross-link and bind the mixture into a permanent shape. Shot made from this material has a density of approximately 11.2 gm/cc or approximately 100 percent the density of lead. The shot will contain nominally 95.5 percent by weight of tungsten and 4.5 percent by weight of polymer. An electronic device designed to distinguish between shotshells containing different shot materials will register tungsten-polymer shells as a nontoxic shotshell similar to bismuth shells.

Federal's application includes a description of the new shot, a toxicological report on the tungsten-polymer shot, and a 30-day test to assess the toxicity of this shot in game-farm mallards (Tier 1). The toxicological report incorporates toxicity information - a synopsis of acute and chronic toxicity data for mammals and birds,

acute effects, potential for environmental concern, toxicity to aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, amphibians, and reptiles; and information on environmental fate and transport - shot and/or shot coating alteration, environmental half-life, and environmental concentration. The toxicity study revealed no adverse effects when mallards were dosed with 8 BB size tungsten-polymer shot and monitored over a 30-day period.

The Service has requested the applicant submit the Tier 2 test plan for review. Once the Service approves the plan the applicant will conduct testing and submit an analysis of the results. After reviewing the results, the Service will either approve the shot as nontoxic or request further testing. The applicant plans to concurrently test this candidate shot with the temporarily approved tungsten-iron shot.

References

- Barr Engineering Company. 1997. Toxicology Report on New Shot. 24 pp.
Bursien, S.J., M.E. Kelly, D.C. Powell, and R.J. Aulerich. 1996. Thirty-Day Dosing Test to Assess the Toxicity of Tungsten-Polymer Shot in Game-Farm Mallards. 1996. Report to Federal Cartridge Co. 78 pp.

Authorship

The primary author of this notice of application is Carol Anderson, Office of Migratory Bird Management.

Dated: October 16, 1997.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-921-08-1320-01; MTM 83859]

Coal Lease Offering

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Competitive Coal Lease Offering by Sealed Bid MTM 83859—Spring Creek Coal Company.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the coal resources in the lands described below in Big Horn County, Montana, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid. This offering is being made as a result of an application filed by Spring Creek Coal Company, in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as

amended (41 Stat. 437; 30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

DATES: The lease sale will be held at 11:00 a.m., November 13, 1997, in the Conference Room, Side A, on the Sixth Floor of the Granite Tower Building, Bureau of Land Management, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana 59101. Sealed bids clearly marked "Sealed Bid for MTM 83859 Coal Sale—Not to be opened before 11:00 a.m., Thursday, November 13, 1997", must be submitted on or before 10:00 a.m., November 13, 1997, to the cashier, Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, Second Floor, Granite Tower Building, 222 North 32nd Street, Post Office Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: An Environmental Assessment of the proposed coal development and related requirements for consultation, public involvement and hearings have been completed in accordance with 43 CFR 3425. The results of these activities were a finding of no significant environmental impact.

The coal resource to be offered consists of all recoverable reserves in the following-described lands:

- T. 8 S., R. 39 E., P.M.M.,
Sec. 22: E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 25: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 26: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 27: N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,
N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,
S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,
E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 8 S., R. 40 E., P.M.M.,
Sec. 30: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Containing 320.00 acres, Big Horn County, Montana.

The tract in this lease offering contains split estate lands. The surface is not held by a qualified surface owner as defined in the regulations, 43 CFR 3400.0-5.

The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid meets the fair market value of the coal resource. The minimum bid for the tract is \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof. No bid that is less than \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. The bids should be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or be 3 hand-